MONDAY
JANUARY 23, 1989

TONIGHT: Cloudy, chance of snow or rain.
TOMORROW: Highs, low to mid-30s. **Page 2A**

MOTIVES FOR SHOPLIFTING
Otherwise honest women confront problem. **Page 1B**

LECH WALESA URGES CAUTION
Solidarity accepts Communists' offer for discussions. **Page 3A**

MIAMI 'UNDER CONTROL'
Police shoot sniper in riot area, but no uprising reported. **Page 8A**

STANDARD-EXAMINER
OGDEN, UTAH SERVING NORTHERN UTAH SINCE 1888 50 CENTS

Bundy admits slaying 8 women in Utah

By MARJORIE CORTEZ
Standard-Examiner Davis Bureau

Davis County law enforcement officials said they were surprised that Ted Bundy confessed to killing eight Utah women, but they had not been briefed this morning on the specifics of a Salt Lake County detective's interview with the Florida death-row inmate.

"It took me by surprise," said Davis Sheriff's Capt. Bud Cox. "I can't think of eight (unsolved slayings) off the top of my head. We did have five we were relatively sure he was involved in, but not eight."

Bountiful Police Chief Larry Higgins shared a similar reaction to Bundy's admissions.

"I was a little surprised myself. I think we'll have to examine the information he gave us very carefully," Higgins said.

Cox and Higgins spoke to Salt Lake County Sheriff Pete Hayward this morning. Higgins said homicide Detective Dennis Couch would share the information obtained in the interview with the convicted murder when he returns to Utah late today or Tuesday.

Cox said he hopes that Couch has provided information about the disappearance of Nancy Baird, who vanished from her job at an east Layton convenience store on July 4, 1975.

Baird, mother of a 2-year-old girl, left her purse and other personal belongings in the store. She has not been heard from since, but sheriff's deputies have information that Bundy was in the area the day she disappeared.

"This is the first time he's really opened up. Hopefully, it's the truth," Cox said.

Even if Bundy, 42, provides information about Baird's whereabouts, Cox doubts there would be any remains after 13 years.

"I still don't think we'd find her after all this time, but maybe," he said.

Meanwhile, Higgins awaits word on whether Bundy discussed the disappearance of Debi Kent, a 17-year-old Bountiful girl who vanished Nov. 8, 1974, when she left a high school play to pick up her brother.

"The only information I have regarding this is Dennis Couch is on his way back to Utah and we won't have any information until then," Higgins said.

Hayward said in an Associated Press story today that Bundy acknowledged "involvement" in the killings and disappearances of the eight women during a 1½-hour meeting late Sunday with Couch.

Hayward said Bundy, who also has admitted killings in Idaho, Washington and Colorado, had provided directions and partial maps of the location of some remains.

"Bundy did elaborate on some of the cases, and of course they've all been tape-recorded and documents marked," he said. "We'll be looking at it very carefully, to see if what he told us matches up."

Hayward declined to identify the victims until the interview had been analyzed, further investigation conducted and the victims' families notified.

Authorities had believed Bundy was responsible for the deaths of two women and the disappearances of three others in 1974 and 1975, when he was a student at the University of Utah law school.

See BUNDY on 2A

Can't go back

Bundy

From 1A

He was suspected in the deaths of Melissa Smith, 17, Midvale, who disappeared Oct. 18, 1974, and Laura Anna Aime, 17, Lehi, who vanished Oct. 31, 1974. Their bodies were found in canyons east of Salt Lake City and Provo.

He also was believed responsible for the disappearances of Kent, Baird, and Nancy Wilcox, 16, Holladay, on Oct. 2, 1974. Their bodies never have been found.

Salt Lake City police had asked Couch to question Bundy about Debbie Smith, 17, whose body was found near the Salt Lake International Airport on April 1, 1976.

The Salt Lake Tribune quoted unnamed sources as saying they were adding the names of Sandra Weaver, a Wisconsin native who had lived in Tooele until her death in 1974, and Brigham Young University student Sue Curtis, who disappeared in 1975.

"That would account for all the ones we're looking at," Hayward said.

Bundy is scheduled to die in Florida's electric chair Tuesday for the death of a 12-year-old Lake City girl. He also is under a death sentence for the murders of two Florida State University sorority sisters.

Authorities have said Bundy's confessions were an 11th-hour attempt to delay the execution, but Florida Gov. Bob Martinez has refused to grant a delay.

Hayward said Couch described Bundy as uncooperative at times, and that he seemed "very tired, putting his face in his hands, and acting as if he was going to sleep."

For Belva Kent, Debi Kent's mother, the news came both as a relief and a burden.

"I've got to go through all this pain and grieving again. If they find the body and bring it out, we'll have to have a burial," she said in a AP story. "It's not an easy process. But somehow we'll manage."

Earlier Sunday, Bundy told an Idaho investigator he killed two women there in the mid-1970s, and in earlier interviews reportedly confessed to killing at least eight women in Washington and a 26-year-old Vail, Colo., ski shop employee.

Bundy met with a psychiatrist and defense attorneys today and was in a "subdued" mood, a prison official said.

Colorado Attorney General Duane Woodard criticized Bundy's new cooperation with detectives, accusing the killer of stringing along investigators to avoid execution.